

October 7, 2019

Jami MacNeil

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Bureau of Land Resources

Maine Department of Environmental Protection

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I strongly oppose to the project described by the applicant, Mr. Jeff Spinney. While I am very supportive to development and improvement, I believe that this project does neither.

I live in the vicinity of the reversing falls on the Sheepscot River. I clearly witness much of the traffic on this part of the river. While many fishing boats come as far upriver as the reversing falls, I seldom see any going further. Almost all these boats are less than 25 feet in length. I do see, however, many kayakers using the falls as a training venue for white water training. These kayakers use most of the width of the river at the reversing falls from early Spring to late Fall. (Kayakers are in the river today at 10:01 AM as I write this letter.) During the summer months, I may see as many as 25 kayakers at any one time during the two tides of the day. Power boats interfere with the activities of the kayakers; therefore, I see very little interaction between the kayakers and the motorboaters. Motorboaters, do not have a destination and simply come to this location to observe the activities there. Fishing in this area is difficult, so even fisher people do not remain here very long.

During the times that the kayakers are in the area, rarely will I see the Bald Eagles, Osprey or Herons vacate the premises. However, whenever the powerboats are in the vicinity, most birds of prey in this area go elsewhere. While we are sure that these birds find nourishment in other areas, their "preferred" site has been taken over by the motorboaters. In my opinion, more motorboaters mean

that the possibility of fishing by the birds in this shallow bay will further affect them. From what I can see, we have at least three pair of Bald Eagles nesting in the area in the vicinity of Mr. Spinney's land and the reversing falls. Herons are in this little cove every day. Disrupting these birds would be a tragedy.

I am also concerned about wake erosion caused by the presence of such power boats. No wake wash exists at the moment. Having a club whereby up to 25 boats and jet skis would be in the vicinity certainly will alter the shore line. While I would like to believe that the operators would make a conscious effort to minimize wake wash, we all know that a group of people do not behave as single individuals.

I am also very concerned about the proposal to have a rifle range on the property indicated in the proposal. Two rifle ranges currently exist within five miles of the Spinney property. There is no need to have the sound of more guns disturbing the animals and people living in this peaceful area.

As mentioned above, I am very concerned about the proposal and must oppose its existence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Richard Picard". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Richard Picard

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